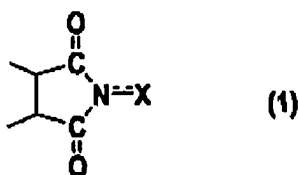


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AMENDED CLAIM SET:

1. (currently amended) A process for separating a reaction product and an imide compound having an imide unit represented by the following formula (1):

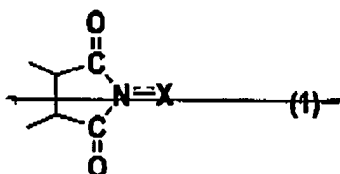


wherein X represents an oxygen atom, a hydroxyl group, or an acyloxy group, from a reaction mixture obtained by a reaction of

a substrate selected from the group consisting of a hydrocarbon, an alcohol corresponding to the hydrocarbon, an aldehyde corresponding to the hydrocarbon, a ketone corresponding to the hydrocarbon, an amine, a heterocyclic compound, a thiol, a sulfide, and an amide, wherein the hydrocarbon is a saturated or unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbon which may have a substituent, a saturated or unsaturated alicyclic hydrocarbon which may have a substituent, a condensed cyclic hydrocarbon containing a non-aromatic ring, or an aromatic hydrocarbon in which a methyl group or a methylene group is bound to an aromatic ring, provided that the unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbon is a conjugate diene and the unsaturated alicyclic hydrocarbon is a cycloalkatriene, a cycloalkatetraene, a dimer of a diene, or an unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbon having at least one methylidyne group in

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either a bridgehead position or junction position or both, in the presence of



the imide compound,

which process comprises separating said reaction product and said imide compound from said reaction mixture by solvent-crystallizing the imide compound from said reaction mixture with at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of a hydrocarbon, a chain ether, and water,

wherein the reaction mixture is obtained by (i) oxidizing the substrate with oxygen, (ii) carboxylating the substrate with oxygen and carbon monoxide, (iii) nitrating the substrate with a nitrogen oxide, (iv) sulfonating the substrate with a sulfur oxide, (v) acylating the substrate with a vicinal-dicarbonyl compound, or (vi) radically coupling the substrate with a compound which is radically formable of a carbon-carbon bond.

2. (previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein separation of said reaction product is by a solvent-crystallization step in which the hydrocarbon is an aliphatic hydrocarbon having 4 to 16 carbon atoms or an alicyclic hydrocarbon having 4 to 16 carbon atoms, and the chain ether is a diC₁₋₆alkyl ether or a C₁₋₆alkyl C₆₋₁₀aryl ether.

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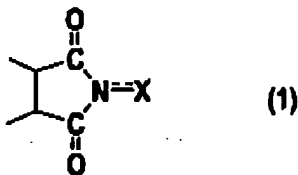
3. (previously presented) The process of claim 2, wherein the imide compound is an aromatic imide compound, and the reaction product is an oxidation reaction product of an alicyclic hydrocarbon or an alicyclic alcohol and is soluble in the solvent for crystallization in the solvent-crystallization step.

4.-17. (cancelled).

18. (previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the imide compound is an oxidation catalyst for oxidizing the substrate, and the reaction product is an oxidation reaction product corresponding to the substrate.

19.-35. (cancelled).

36. (previously presented) A process for separating a reaction product and an imide compound having an imide unit represented by the following formula (1):



wherein X represents an oxygen atom, a hydroxyl group, or an acyloxy group,

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from a reaction mixture obtained by a reaction of

a substrate in the presence of the imide compound and a metal co-catalyst, thereby forming a reaction mixture,

which process comprises separating said reaction product and said imide compound from said reaction mixture by solvent-crystallizing the imide compound from said reaction mixture with at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of a hydrocarbon, a chain ether, and water,

wherein the reaction mixture is obtained by (i) oxidizing the substrate with oxygen, (ii) carboxylating the substrate with oxygen and carbon monoxide, (iii) nitrating the substrate with a nitrogen oxide, (iv) sulfonating the substrate with a sulfur oxide, (v) acylating the substrate with a vicinal-dicarbonyl compound, or (vi) radically coupling the substrate with a compound which is radically formable of a carbon-carbon bond.

37. (previously presented) The separating process of claim 36, wherein the co-catalyst is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a transition metal-containing compound and a compound containing a Group 13 element from the Periodic Table of Elements.